

Mid-Pacific Region

Ventura River Project

The Ventura River Project was authorized on March 1, 1956, is one of three large-scale Federal water projects in the Southwest California region; the other two are the Santa Maria and the Cachuma Projects. These “seacoast projects” capture the seasonal floodwaters that would otherwise “waste to the sea.”

The project in Southern California is on the coast about 60 miles Northwest of Los Angeles and covering 90,000 acres. The Ventura River and its tributaries are the main water sources for the project. The Ventura River bisects the lower, southern portion of this area, and flows to the Pacific Ocean. Its main features are:



Casitas Dam and Reservoir

Casitas Dam and Reservoir are on the Coyote Creek about two miles above its junction with the Ventura River. Lake Casitas regulates flows along the lower reaches of Coyote Creek. It has a storage capacity of 254,000 acre-feet. Lake Casitas provides irrigation and municipal and industrial water to urban and suburban areas in the Casitas Municipal Water District. Casitas Dam is owned by the

United States, however, the water rights and water stored in the reservoir are held by the Casitas Municipal Water District which also operates the project.

Robles Diversion Dam and Fish Passage Facility

Robles Diversion Dam is on the Ventura River about 1.5 miles downstream from the river's formation, diverting some of the higher flow into Lake Casitas. The dam diverts water into the headworks of the Robles-Casitas Canal. In 2005, fish passage facility was added to the project to provide passage for steelhead trout.

Robles-Casitas Canal

Robles-Casitas Canal conveys the diverted flow of the Ventura River into the Santa Ana Creek where Santa Ana Creek enters Lake Casitas.

Main Conveyance System

Ventura River Project's original, Reclamation-constructed, distribution system included many miles of pressure pipeline and, five pumping plants. Since much of the service area lies at a higher elevation than the Casitas Reservoir, six steel tank balancing reservoirs provide for peak and emergency storage. Casitas has added additional reservoirs and pumping plants since the original construction and there are now 15 steel reservoirs and 10 pumping plants.

Construction

Construction of the Casitas Dam began in July 1956 and was completed in March 1959; the Robles Diversion Dam and the five original pumping plants were completed in 1958; other distribution works were started in 1957 and completed in 1959.

Benefits

Irrigation and Municipal and Industrial Deliveries

The principal products of the project area are citrus and other fruits. In addition, avocados, and berries contribute substantially to the agricultural produce of the area. The project supplies water to about 7,000 acres of agricultural lands, and serves 60,000 municipal customers.

For More Information:

MP Region Public Affairs

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